

BODY PROTECTION

(No. 81 May 2016)

1725

PURPOSE

1725.1

(No. 81 May 2016)

To protect employees from bodily injury and to comply with the Division of Occupational Safety and Health (Cal/OSHA), Title 8, §3383, §3406, and §3410, all employees shall wear a jacket/pant combination designed for Personal Body Protection while engaged in fire ground operations or activities.

WILDLAND FIREFIGHTING PROTECTIVE ENSEMBLE (WFPE)

1725.1.1

(No. 81 May 2016)

During wildland firefighting operations, employees shall wear their issued Nomex jacket/pant for Personal Body Protection. The WFPE shall meet third party certification to current NFPA 1977-23 Standard Protective Garment Design, NFPA 1977-30 Standard Protective Garment Performance, and be approved to the CAL FIRE specification ([WEB](#)).

Employees shall wear the Nomex jacket and Nomex pant (over the uniform pant) on vegetation fires, range improvement, grade projects, vegetation training burns, and vegetation management projects.

STRUCTURAL FIREFIGHTING PROTECTIVE ENSEMBLE (SFPE)

1725.1.2

(No. 81 May 2016)

Employees shall wear issued turnout coats and pants while engaged in structural fire suppression and other "Schedule A" emergency operations. The SFPE shall meet third party certification to the current NFPA 1971-23 and NFPA 1971-24 Standard Protective Garment Design, NFPA 1971-33 and NFPA 1971-35 Standard Protective Garment Performance, and be approved to the CAL FIRE specification ([WEB](#)).

Schedule A operations include but are not limited to response to all fires, floods, hazardous materials, earthquakes, and medical emergencies.

BASE LAYER

(No. 81 May 2016)

1725.1.3

Employees shall wear a “Base Layer” underneath their Nomex jacket/pant. The tee shirt base layer shall be either 100 percent cotton or a department approved performance fabric for additional Personal Body Protection. Employees have the option of wearing a long sleeve, crewneck tee shirt except under a short sleeve uniform shirt (work or dress) where the sleeves are visible. It is recommended other base layer undergarments (panties, bras, briefs, boxers) also be made of cotton or a department approved performance fabric.

CHAINSAW CHAPS

(No. 81 May 2016)

1725.1.4

Employees must wear chainsaw chaps or comparable protection while operating chain or power saws during wildland operations ([PDF](#)). Employees shall be exempt from this requirement when wearing turnouts during structural firefighting and rescue operations.

RESPONSIBILITIES

(No. 81 May 2016)

1725.2

Managers/Supervisors

- Ensure their employees are issued approved and in-service Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) designed for Personal Body Protection.
- Ensure their employees are trained to don and doff their PPE designed for Personal Body Protection.
- Ensure employees wear PPE designed for Personal Body Protection.
- Ensure employees inspect their PPE designed for Personal Body Protection.
- Remove and replace any damaged or defective PPE designed for Personal Body Protection.

To increase body cooling, if there is no risk of burn injury, a supervisor may reasonably determine if he or she should instruct crew members to open and/or remove body protective clothing to reduce the potential for heat illness.

Employees

- Wear their issued PPE designed for Personal Body Protection.
- Understand the limitations of their PPE designed for Personal Body Protection.
- Adhere to safe and healthy work practices regarding their Personal Body Protection.
- Inspect their issued PPE designed for Personal Body Protection.
- Remove and replace any damaged or defective PPE designed for Personal Body Protection.

PROCEDURE

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1725.3

- Inspection Guide (DOC In development)
- Criteria for removing PPE from service (DOC In development)

RELATED INFORMATION

(No. 81 May 2016)

1725.4

Authority

- Title 8 of the California Code of Regulations, §3383 ([WEB](#))
- Title 8 of the California Code of Regulations, §3406 ([WEB](#))
- Title 8 of the California Code of Regulations, §3410 ([WEB](#))
- NFPA 1977: Standard on Protective Clothing and Equipment for Wildland Fire Fighting ([WEB](#))
- NFPA 1971: Standard on Protective Ensembles for Structural Fire Fighting and Proximity Fire Fighting ([WEB](#))

Related Policies

- Handbook 1721, Protective Clothing and Equipment, General Information ([WEB](#))
- Handbook 1728, Special Safety Clothing and Equipment ([WEB](#))

PPE and Vendor Guide

- Personal Protective Equipment Memo ([WEB](#))
- Personal Protective Equipment Guide and Vendor Procurement Guide ([WEB](#))

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[\(see Forms or Forms Samples\)](#)